

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on May 16, 1997, for rollcall vote 138, which was final passage of H.R. 1385, the Employment, Training, and Literacy Enhancement Act of 1997. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I support this legislation, which will reform and streamline job training programs by consolidating over 60 Federal programs into three block grants to States and localities. I request that the RECORD reflect my position on this vote.

RECOGNIZING DEMOCRATIC
SUCCESS IN TAIWAN**HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan of the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of their first anniversary in office, which is May 20, 1997.

Since entering office on May 20, 1996, President Lee and Vice President Lien have maintained a strong economic growth for their country, advanced democracy at home, and expanded Taiwan's official and unofficial ties abroad.

Today Taiwan stands as a dynamic economic power in the world. It ranks as the world's 14th trading nation, with a global trade of nearly \$200 billion in 1996. Under the leadership of President Lee and Vice President Lien, Taiwan has progressed rapidly towards democratization, providing a shining example for other nations striving to establish governments based on fundamental human rights.

With a diverse economy, low unemployment, and a commitment to establish itself as a democratic nation, Taiwan has a bright future. I wish Taiwan the very best as it prepares to celebrate this important anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO ALTHEA GIBSON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives a very special charitable event, the Second Annual Golf and Tennis Classic sponsored by the East Orange General Hospital Foundation.

This annual charitable event, which will be held on June 12, 1997, will honor Althea Gibson, one of the most highly recognized women in the world today. She is a pioneer in sports and is revered as one of the greatest tennis players of all time and recognized as a world class golfer.

Ms. Gibson was the first African-American to play tennis at the U.S. Open—1950—and Wimbledon, England—1951. She set the

stage for women in sports when beginning in 1957 she won the U.S. women's singles championship, followed by a three time championship in women's doubles at Wimbledon beginning 1956 and culminating with Ms. Gibson winning the coveted Wimbledon Women's Singles Championship in 1957 and 1958.

As a star athlete and a woman of character, integrity, and dedication, Ms. Gibson was undaunted in her quest for excellence in sports. She met challenges head on and broke down barriers so that others could enjoy the sport of tennis.

In addition to her worldly accolades Ms. Gibson has been a longtime resident of the city of East Orange, serving as director of recreation and cultural affairs. Ms. Gibson is a role model, an author, an athlete, an outstanding woman of courage and dignity. We are proud to be her neighbor, and her friend. Today, we salute Althea Gibson for her courage, her tenacity, her spirit, and for setting the stage for a Zina Garrison and a Martina Navratilova, a Lori McNeil and a Billie Jean King, a Monica Seles and a Steffi Graff, and for other girls and young women of all ages, colors, and creeds who have a tennis racket in their hands and a love for the sport in their hearts.

As the Representative of East Orange in Congress, I am proud of the accomplishments of Ms. Gibson, and I applaud the work of the East Orange General Hospital Foundation. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Althea Gibson for her numerous outstanding contributions to humankind. She truly is a 20th century pioneer.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT LEE
TENG-HUI IN TAIWAN**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is a most significant anniversary—an anniversary, we, in the Congress, wholeheartedly join in celebrating. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the first anniversary of the direct election of Lee Teng-Hui as President of the Republic of China on Taiwan. One year ago the people of Taiwan went to the polls to cast their ballots for President in a free and open democratic election. One year ago, we witnessed a great triumph for democracy—a triumph in the face of threats and intimidation.

As my colleagues recall, 1 year ago, the people of Taiwan faced the threat of military attack by the People's Republic of China which conducted missile tests less than 50 miles off the coast of Taiwan. Beijing combined aggressive statements with threats of military action in a determined effort to coerce the people of Taiwan into abandoning their democratic aspirations. Despite these serious attempts at intimidation, voters turned out in the Presidential election in heavy numbers. President Lee was elected overwhelmingly in a race between three candidates in an election that was—by every account—free and fair and democratic.

Mr. Speaker, President Lee's election is important to remember today because this marks the first time a Chinese head of state has ever

been elected by popular vote. It also marks the culmination of a 10-year process of transforming Taiwan into a vibrant market-oriented democracy. In 1986 the Republic of China on Taiwan embarked on a mission to empower all of its citizens to decide freely and democratically who would be the leaders of their government. That process led to the election of city councilmen, municipal officials, and national legislators, and it reached its ultimate conclusion in the first Presidential election last year.

Mr. Speaker, during President Lee Teng-Hui's first term as democratically elected President, Taiwan saw its economy remain strong and its stock market soar. I am certain that my colleagues join me in commending and congratulating President Lee on a most successful first year, and we wish him and all of the people on Taiwan continued peace and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO THE SELDEN MIDDLE
SCHOOL CONCERT BAND**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to the Selden Middle School concert band led by band director Roy Hull. I am proud to announce to the House of Representatives that the Selden Middle School concert band, won the Superior/first place trophy and the overall Junior High/Middle School concert band award at the Festivals of Music competition in South Carolina.

Festivals of Music, part of the Educational Programs Network, holds 126 festivals in the United States and Canada. It is one of several organizations sponsoring such competitions. The trophies awarded to the Selden Middle School concert band carry with them the glory and pride of playing better than approximately 250 other schools that have participated in the Festivals of Music competition this year. Scott Dickson, program director for the Festivals of Music competition claimed that Selden's band score was so phenomenal. They were the first group to perform in the morning, and they set the tone for the day. The judges the others would come up to their level. They were such a spectacular group. Two musical pieces—"Eoncomium" by Stan Pethel, and "All Glory Told" by James Swearingen were the selections that led Selden to victory.

Selden's victory at the Festivals of Music competition is well deserved and hard-earned. The students practiced 2½ hours a week for 5 months to prepare for this competition. The 135 eighth-graders and their parents raised \$63,000 to pay for the trip so that no money from the middle country school district was used. They organized car washes, a craft fair, a raffle, and more to make competing in the Festivals of Music a reality.

I congratulate the Selden Middle School concert band on their prestigious accomplishment.